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9	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT		
10	NORTHERN DISTRIC	T OF CALIFORNIA	
11	OAKLAND	DIVISION	
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14	EVGENIA PEKELNY,)	Case No. 4:19-cv-05617-KAW	
15	Plaintiff,	Civil Rights	
16	EDEN MEDICAL CENTER, a business)	THIRD AMENDED COMPLAINT	
17	organization, form unknown, with campuses located in Castro Valley and San	FOR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF & DAMAGES: FOR DISABILITY	
18	Leandro, California, is an affiliate of	DISCRIMINATION IN VIOLATION	
19	SUTTER HEALTH, a California non-profit public benefit corporation; and DOES 1-10,	OF TITLE III OF THE ADA; THE CALIFORNIA UNRUH CIVIL	
20	inclusive,	RIGHTS ACT; THE CALIFORNIA DISABLED PERSONS ACT; AND	
21	Defendants.	THE CALIFORNIA BUSINESS AND	
22		PROFESSIONS CODE	
23		DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL	
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	PLAINTIFF'S THIRD AMENDED COMPI		

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INTRODUCTION

This civil rights action alleges that EDEN MEDICAL CENTER, a business organization
form unknown, ("Eden") with campuses located in Castro Valley and San Leandro, California, is
an affiliate of SUTTER HEALTH, a California non-profit public benefit corporation's ("Sutter")
(hereinafter collectively, "Defendants") have failed and continue to fail to provide accessible
medical equipment and to implement non-discriminatory policies and procedures. In so doing,
Defendants turn away patients with disabilities, including patients with increased Body Mass
Index ("BMI"); put the safety of their patients with disabilities at risk; and provide them with
lower quality health care in comparison to non-disabled patients. Persons with disabilities,
including those with increased BMI, are entitled to full and equal access to Defendants' health
care services under the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA"), and related supplemental
California statutes.

The ADA requires health care providers to provide individuals with disabilities full and equal access to their health care services and facilities. Standards for Accessible Medical Diagnostic Equipment ("the MDE Standards") became effective on February 8, 2017. It established minimum technical criteria that will allow patients with disabilities independent entry to, use of, and exit from medical diagnostic equipment to the maximum extent possible. Such equipment is often height-adjustable and/or has padded, adjustable restraints and bars, and can include examination beds, stretchers, and tables; procedure and examination chairs; weight scales; radiology, MRI and mammography equipment. Inaccessible equipment can create safety risks, and if only inaccessible equipment is offered, patients cannot receive a medical evaluation as thorough as those given to patients without disabilities. Inaccessible equipment can also result in denial of treatment when providers do not perform diagnostic procedures due to the lack of appropriate equipment, as was the case here.

Plaintiff EVGENIA PEKELNY (hereinafter "Plaintiff" or "Ms. Pekelny") lives with various disabilities. When she sought an MRI at Defendants' facilities, she was turned away, because the existing equipment could not accommodate her body size.

By failing to make its programs and services accessible to patients with disabilities,

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Defendants perpetuate a two-tiered discriminatory system of health care, whereby people with disabilities are denied care, or receive substandard and inferior medical treatment which jeopardizes their health and well-being.

Defendants' ongoing practice of systemic discrimination denies Plaintiff her rights under federal and state statutes, including the "full and equal enjoyment" guarantee of Title III of the ADA; Defendants' obligations under the California Unruh Civil Rights Act ("Unruh Act") and the California Disabled Persons Act ("DPA").

PARTIES

- 1. Ms. Pekelny suffers from various physical and medical conditions such as thoracic outlet syndrome, delayed sleep phase disorder, foot pain, asthma, macular degeneration and morbid obesity with BMI above 40 that causes shortness of breath as extra weight in her chest and abdomen increases the amount of work that muscles that control breathing must do. Plaintiff 's morbid obesity substantially limits her ability to breath which is a "major life activity" as defined by 42 U.S.C § 12102(2).
- 2. Accordingly, at all times relevant herein she has been a qualified individual with a disability within the meaning of all applicable statutes. At all relevant times Plaintiff was, and currently is, a resident of Oakland, California. Plaintiff is neither mobility impaired nor does she have a sensory disability. Accordingly, Plaintiff is not part of the class in *Olson et al. v. Sutter Health, et al.*, Case No. RG06-302354, and is not subject to the consent decree in that action.
- 3. Defendants EDEN MEDICAL CENTER, a business organization, form unknown, an affiliate of SUTTER HEALTH, located at 20103 Lake Chabot Rd, Castro Valley, CA 94546; and SUTTER HEALTH, a California non-profit public benefit corporation and DOES 1-10, have provided medical breast imaging services and other medical services since 1984. Upon information and belief, Both Defendants are recipients of federal financial assistance.
- 4. Plaintiff is informed and believes that that named Defendants, including Does 1 through 10, inclusive, conspired to commit the acts described herein, or alternatively, aided and abetted one another in performance of the wrongful acts hereinafter alleged.
- 5. Plaintiff does not know the true names of all Defendants, their business capacities, their

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zoo does not have its own MRI machine. Rather, the Oakland zoo sends their patients to

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1	life-saving medical equipment; and (3) Defendants have failed to properly train their agents	
2	and/or employees, including technicians and receptionists.	
3	25. As a result of the aforementioned acts and omissions by Defendants, Plaintiff not only	
4	suffered difficulties, discomfort, and embarrassment she also left feeling demoralized,	
5	discouraged, obstructed, and disqualified because of her disabilities.	
6	26. Ms. Pekelny would seek future medical care at Defendants' facilities if they provided	
7	accommodations for her disability, including accessible medical equipment.	
8	27. Ms. Pekely will seek to supplement this Complaint at the time of trial as to subsequent	
9	events, according to proof.	
10	<u>CLAIMS FOR RELIEF</u>	
11	FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION FOR DISCRIMINATION IN VIOLATION OF THE	
12	AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990	
13	(Against all Defendants and each of them)	
۱4	28. Plaintiff incorporates and re-alleges Paragraphs 1 through 27 of this Complaint.	
15	29. Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act prohibits discrimination against people	
16	with disabilities "in the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges,	
17	advantages, or accommodations of any place of public accommodation by any person who owns	
18	leases (or leases to), or operates a place of public accommodation." 42 U.S.C. § 12182(a).	
19	30. Plaintiff is an individual with a disability within the meaning of the ADA and the	
20	regulations promulgated thereunder, 28 C.F.R. Part 36. Plaintiff has an impairment that	
21	substantially limits major life activities.	
22	31. Defendants' facilities are professional offices of health care providers and are therefore	
23	places of public accommodation within the meaning of the ADA. 42 U.S.C. § 12181(7)(F).	
24	32. Defendants collectively are the owners, operators, lessors, and/or lessees of the "medical	
25	diagnostic equipment" described in the Section 510 of the Rehabilitation Act as equipment (1)	
26	used by health care professionals (2) in medical settings, such as physician's offices, clinics,	
27	emergency rooms, and hospitals, (3) for diagnostic purposes.	
28	33. Defendants collectively are the owners, operators, lessors, and/or lessees of medical	
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	PLAINTIFF'S THIRD AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF AND DAMAGES	

1	facilities and services provided in their names and are therefore places of public accommodation	
2	within the meaning of the ADA. 28 C.F.R. § 36.104 ("Public accommodation means a private	
3	entity that owns, leases (or leases to), or operates a place of public accommodation.").	
4	34. Defendants having discriminated against Plaintiff by denying her the opportunity to	
5	participate in or benefit from the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or	
6	accommodations of the facilities owned, operated, or contracted for usage by Defendants. 42	
7	U.S.C. § 12182(b)(1)(A)(i).	
8	35. Defendants have discriminated against Plaintiff by denying her the opportunity to	
9	participate in or benefit from the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or	
10	accommodations of the facilities owned, operated, or contracted for usage by Defendants in a	
11	manner that is not equal to that afforded to other individuals. 42 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(1)(A)(ii).	
12	36. Defendants have discriminated and continue to discriminate against Plaintiff by failing to	
13	modify their policies, procedures, and practices in a reasonable manner, when such modifications	
14	are necessary to ensure equal access for individuals with physical disabilities. 42 U.S.C. §	
15	12182(b)(2)(A)(ii).	
16	37. Defendants' conduct constitutes ongoing and continuous violations of the ADA. Unless	
17	Defendants are restrained from doing so, they will continue to violate the law. Through their	
18	conduct, Defendants have caused and will continue to cause Plaintiff immediate and irreparable	
19	injury.	
20	38. Therefore Plaintiff is entitled to injunctive relief. 42 U.S.C. § 12188.	
21	WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for relief as hereinafter set forth.	
22	SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION FOR DISCRIMINATION IN VIOLATION OF	
23	CALIFORNIA CIVIL CODE §§54, 54.1 AND 54.3, ET SEQ. (CALIFORNIA DISABLED	
24	PERSONS ACT)	
25	(Against all Defendants and each of them)	
26	39. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates herein by reference, as though fully set forth herein,	
27	Paragraphs 1 through 38 of this Complaint.	
28	40. Through the acts and omissions described hereinabove, Defendants are violating	
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	PLAINTIFF'S THIRD AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF AND	

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1	55. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates herein by reference, as though fully set forth herein,	
2	Paragraphs 1 through 54 of this Complaint.	
3	56. Defendants offer their services for benefit and advertise their business within the	
4	jurisdiction of the state of California. As such, Defendants, and each of them, have a duty to	
5	comply with the provisions of the Unfair Competition Act set forth in § 17200, et seq., of the	
6	Business and Professions Code.	
7	57. The Unfair Competition Act prohibits, inter alia, unlawful, unfair, or fraudulent business	
8	acts or practices and unfair, deceptive, untrue, or misleading advertising by any person, firm,	
9	corporation, or association within the jurisdiction of the State of California.	
10	58. Defendants have engaged and are engaged in unfair competition, unfair or fraudulent	
11	business practices and unfair, deceptive, untrue or misleading advertising in violation of the	
12	Unfair Competition Act.	
13	59. Defendants, and each of them, engage in business practices and policies that	
۱4	discriminated against persons with physical disabilities, including Plaintiff, in violation of	
15	federal and state statutes.	
16	60. Violation of these statutes also violate an established concept of fairness, are immoral,	
17	unethical, oppressive and unscrupulous.	
18	61. Plaintiff seeks relief in the form of such orders as may be necessary to prevent the	
19	continuation of Defendants' unfair business practices and policies.	
20	WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for relief as hereinafter set forth.	
21	FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION FOR VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA BUSINESS AND	
22	PROFESSIONS CODE §17500, ET SEQ.	
23	(THE FALSE ADVERTISING PRACTICES ACT)	
24	(Against all Defendants and each of them)	
25	62. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates herein by reference, as though fully set forth herein,	
26	Paragraphs 1 through 61 of this Complaint.	
27	63. Defendants engage in health care practices, offer their services for payment, and advertise	
28	their goods and services within the jurisdiction of the state of California. As such, Defendants	
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1	all according to proof;	
2	4. Award to Plaintiff all reasonable statutory attorneys' fees, litigation expenses, and costs	
3	of this proceeding as provided by law;	
4	5. Award to Plaintiff prejudgment interest pursuant to Civ. Code, § 3291; and	
5	6. Grant such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.	
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7	Dated: April 9, 2021 /s/ Irene Karbelashvili	
8	Irene Karbelashvili, Attorney for Plaintiff EVGENIA PEKELNY	
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10	DEMAND FOR JURY	
11	Plaintiff hereby demands a jury for all claims for which a jury is permitted.	
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14	Dated: April 9, 2021 /s/ Irene Karbelashvili	
15	Irene Karbelashvili, Attorney for Plaintiff EVGENIA PEKELNY	
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